

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Miners' Cabin: This structure was built and inhabited in the early 1900s by gold miners. The area was worked again during the depression years of the 1930s. Remains of the sluice boxes lie just down stream from the cabin.

Outlaw cave: Legend has it that two brothers robbed a bank in Vernal, Utah and hid out here for 18 months. Approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ mile down river on the south bank a rock cairn marks the grave of one brother.

Artifacts at these sites are protected by law. Please do not destroy or remove any item.

GEOLOGICAL INFORMATION

The black, uplifted rocks in the canyon (metamorphic granite gneisses) represent the oldest exposed formations in Eastern Utah (1.75 billion years). These are of the pre-Cambrian age. Above the black rock are the Chinle formation and then the massive, smooth, brown cliffs of the Wingate Sandstone, both of the Triassic age. In many places the Wingate is topped by slabby, brown sandstones of the Kayenta Formation, also of the Triassic age.

The highest metamorphic gneiss cliffs are approximately 200 feet high near Skull Rapid. Some of the sandstone formations are 1,000 feet above the river.

CAUTION

The take-out point is located on private land open to the public's use through joint cooperation between the BLM and owners. Please respect the rights of the land owners.

Rattlesnakes have been seen in the canyon. Be alert to this hazard when hiking.

Abide by all life-jacket and other boating requirements.



Remember

A SAFE TRIP IS A GOOD TRIP....!

Guide to WESTWATER

*a section of the
COLORADO RIVER*

**MOAB
DISTRICT**



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

A CHALLENGE FOR MAN

From its discovery, the Colorado River has been a challenge of man against nature. Westwater Canyon, with its whitewater rapids, is an excellent example of the river's mighty power. Only experienced boatmen should attempt to pilot rafts through the canyon; it should not be tried by the novice.

WESTWATER RANGER STATION

The Bureau of Land Management administers the Westwater Canyon portion of the Colorado. During April through October, rangers are on duty at the Westwater launch point, which is 4.5 river miles from the Utah-Colorado state line. From the station it is approximately 17 river miles to the first available take-out point (Rose Ranch). In this distance the river drops 125 feet.

The ranger station is approximately 63 river miles from Moab, Utah and 125 river miles from the Colorado's confluence with the Green River and the beginning of Cataract Canyon in Canyonlands National Park.

ARE PERMITS REQUIRED?

Because of the heavy recreational use of Westwater, permits and reservations to run this section of the river are required. These can be obtained at:

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Grand Area Office
P.O. Box M
Sand Flats Road
Moab, Utah 84532
Ph: 801-259-6111

Moab District Office
125 West 2nd South
Moab, Utah 84532
Ph: 801-259-6111

As the Nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has responsibility for most of our nationally owned public lands and natural resources. This includes fostering the wisest use of our land and water resources, protecting our fish and wildlife, preserving the environmental and cultural values of our national parks and historical places, and providing for the enjoyment of life through outdoor recreation. The Department assesses our energy and mineral resources and works to assure that their development is in the best interests of all our people. The Department also has a major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in Island Territories under U.S. administration.



HOW DEEP IS THE WATER?

Throughout the length of the canyon, the river averages 30 to 35 feet deep with some areas having water 60 feet deep. However, the depth varies with the water flow volume, which fluctuates according to the seasonal runoff. As a general rule, the river peaks about 20,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) in late May and early June and recedes throughout the summer and autumn months to a low of less than 3,000 cfs. The river flow varies from year to year and from day to day.

RAPIDS

Because the flow varies, every trip is unique. Some rapids are most challenging at high water, while others require greater skill at low water. In the 17 miles of Westwater Canyon there are 11 rapids varying in difficulty from 1 to 9, on a scale where the most dangerous rapids have a rating of 10. The rapids of note are Funnel Falls, Skull, and Sock-It-To-Me. Check with the ranger for current Westwater river running information.

WILL I SEE ANY WILDLIFE?

Many species of wildlife inhabit the canyon. Those most commonly seen are Canada Geese, Great Blue Heron, ducks, beaver, eagles (fall and spring), song birds and an occasional deer.

NATURAL FEATURES

A small waterfall is located on the Little Dolores River about 200 yards upstream from its confluence with the Colorado River.

A few small natural arches are found near the Little Dolores River and one large arch just below Star Canyon in the red rock. There are many spires, the most notable being "Smokey Bear Point" near Little Hole Canyon.

WESTWATER CANYON



→ To 1-70
5 miles

ALL BOATERS MUST REGISTER
AT THE RANGER STATION

**WESTWATER
RANGER
STATION**.....

Westwater Creek

Bitter Creek

(130)

(131)

(129)

(128)

(127)

(126)

(125)

(124)

(122)

(121)

COLORADO
UTAH

MINERS' CABIN

**WILD HORSE
RAPID**



Miners' Cabin



Skull Rapid

ROSE RANCH TAKE OUT POINT.....

To Cisco
6 miles

(122) MILEAGE INDICATORS BEGIN (0) AT THE MOUTH OF THE GREEN RIVER

Little Hole Canyon

Little Dolores R.
LITTLE DOLORES RAPID

OUTLAW CAVE

FUNNEL FALLS

MARBLE CANYON RAPID

SKULL RAPID

SOCK-IT-TO-ME RAPID

LAST CHANCE RAPID

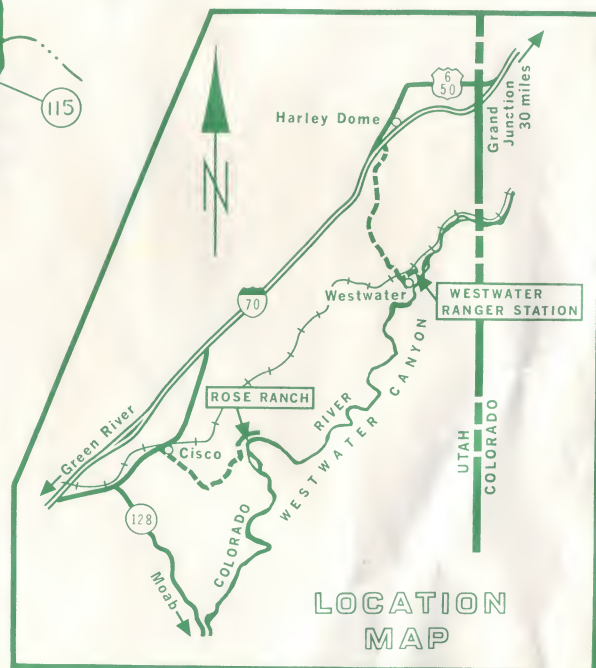
Big Hole Canyon

Star Canyon

Cottonwood Creek

Rose Ranch

Colorado



LOCATION MAP